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21 SEP 1950

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE
JOINT INTELLIGENCE GROUP****SUBJECT: Report on FM-888**

1. As a consequence of a meeting on 13 September 1950 between Lt. Colonel H. G. V. Hart, USAF, of the Joint Intelligence Group, and [redacted] USAF, of this Office, the following information concerning FM-888 is submitted.

a. Background

(1) Upon receipt in the Office of Reports and Estimates, Central Intelligence Agency of FM-888 from the Joint Intelligence Group in the form of an intelligence request, it was evident that two solutions for the requirement were possible. One solution was to produce, within a relatively short time, for each country concerned, a somewhat summary study, based on available information, and composed by analysts without special training in psychological intelligence techniques. The other solution was to produce, at the expense of time, much more penetrating studies based on a directed collection effort, and on a sound psychological intelligence methodology which had yet to be developed. The scope and terms of FM-888, together with its relationship to long-range war planning, made the latter solution appear necessary.

(2) At this same time it was anticipated that the NSC 43 Organization would be shortly redesignated and given responsibility for peacetime planning of wartime psychological warfare. As a result, the Central Intelligence Agency, expecting to receive from this redesignated NSC 43 Organization a broad intelligence request paralleling FM-888, was reluctant to plan production until both requirements were known and coordinated. The Joint Intelligence Group was apprised that some delay would ensue for this reason.

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(3) By October 1949, when no requirement had yet issued from the NSC 43 Organization, it was decided to proceed solely on the basis of PM-888. A joint CIA-State ad hoc committee was formed for this purpose on the initiative of the Assistant Director, Office of Reports and Estimates, Central Intelligence Agency. Frequent meetings of this committee finally resulted in an outline for country-by-country psychological warfare intelligence studies, based on the extensive terms of PM-888.

(4) This outline, together with a series of questions for clarification, was the subject of a conference, held on 16 January 1950, between the aforementioned ad hoc committee and members of the Joint Intelligence Group. It was agreed that the Central Intelligence Agency would begin production planning along the lines indicated in the proposed outline, with any degree of latitude which might become necessary in the process. The autumn of 1950 was set as a general target period for production of country-by-country studies.

(5) In recognition of the manifold intelligence problems posed by psychological warfare, the Director of Central Intelligence, on 13 January 1950, took the first step toward instituting an interdepartmental Psychological Intelligence Committee, which eventually met for the first time on 13 April 1950.

(6) On 13 February 1950, the Central Intelligence Agency received from the Interdepartmental Foreign Information Staff a request for a series of estimates of psychological vulnerability concerning more than fifty countries. It was necessary to then consider the terms of this requirement in the planning for fulfillment of PM-888.

(7) On 15 June 1950, the Central Intelligence Agency issued in draft form an intelligence methodology for the production of country-by-country estimates designed to meet the requirements of PM-888. This methodology was subjected to the scrutiny of certain consultants as a check on its validity from a social science viewpoint. No alterations were made necessary by this process.

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(8) On 9 August 1950, the Central Intelligence Agency issued a set of tentative specifications for country-by-country studies, based on the aforementioned methodology. Both the specifications and the methodology were then presented to the Interdepartmental Psychological Intelligence Committee, which considered them during two successive weekly meetings. Although the committee did not take a definite position on the papers, it offered no objection to proceeding along the lines indicated.

(9) Recognizing the lack of special intelligence skills necessary to implement fully all aspects of its proposed solution for FM-888, the Office of Reports and Estimates, Central Intelligence Agency has requested increases in personnel, and has conducted preliminary indoctrination of limited personnel presently available for this purpose.

b. Progress to be Expected

(1) The Central Intelligence Agency plans to issue, by approximately 15 October 1950, studies in physical accessibility for those countries included in the requirements of FM-888. These studies will be based on the attached outline.

(2) Production of other segments of the requirements of FM-888 is now under active consideration. Decisions concerning scope and timing of such production will be transmitted to you when available.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

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[Redacted]
Captain, U.S.N.
Deputy Assistant Director
Reports and Estimates

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Attachment

[Redacted] JW
21 September 50

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